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Reagan vows action against terrorists

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Reagan administration Wednesday threatened "appropriate action," including selective military attacks, against Nicaragua or any other government that commits or supports terrorist acts against Americans.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Nicaragua, blamed by U.S. officials for political violence in El Salvador, and other governments were put "on notice" that the United States may respond with force to attacks against Americans abroad.

"The United States will not tolerate terrorist action against our citizens and will be prepared to take steps," Speakes said.

Secretary of State George Shultz stressed that any policy of retaliation against terrorism must contain assurances that "we don't lash out in some way that won't be sustained."

Shultz told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that terrorists must recognize that "when we start doing certain things, they are going to work. We have to be determined and be prepared to take steps that have repercussions."

In reinforcing Reagan's tough anti-terrorist rhetoric, Speakes refused to comment on a report by The New York Times that the administration considered attacking sus-

pected training bases in Nicaragua for Salvadoran guerrillas.

An air strike against the alleged training sites outside Managua was said to have been among the options discussed as possible reprisals for a June 19 terrorist attack in San Salvador that killed six Americans, including four off-duty Marine guards from the U.S. Embassy.

Instead, the administration resorted to diplomatic channels, sending a sharply worded warning to Nicaragua — personally delivered by U.S. Ambassador Harry Bergold — that "serious consequences" would result if the Sandinista government

was found to be responsible for similar violence in the future.

In a related move, the administration offered a reward of up to \$100,000 two days later for information leading to "the effective prosecution and punishment" of those responsible for the deaths.

"We have outlined in firm tones our policy on attacking terrorist centers or those responsible for terrorist attacks," Speakes said. "That policy remains. The governments responsible understand that we will take appropriate action. The level of our response will be proportionate to the loss incurred."

Contras fire at boat, kill one

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (UPI) — Contra rebels opened fire on a passenger boat carrying four U.S. tourists and others through the jungle of southeastern Nicaragua, killing one soldier and wounding 17 civilians and a second soldier, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

A government official said the Americans were not among the passengers who were wounded in Tuesday's attack near the town of Santa Fe, 115 miles east of Managua.

"There are several gravely wounded civilians, including two children," said the official, who requested anonymity. "But the Americans are fine."

A Defense Ministry statement said Contras opened fire with machine guns on the water around the boat. When its navigator refused to stop and the Sandinista soldiers aboard returned fire, they fired on the boat itself.

The boat, a substitute for a vessel burned by rebels three weeks ago, kept to its original course on Rio Escondido and arrived four hours later at the Caribbean town of Bluefields.



UPI Telephoto

Wild crossing

The wild ponies of Assateague, Va., the chunky, chest-high descendants of horses that survived a 16th-century shipwreck, Wednesday made their annual swim across the narrow

channel to Chincoteague. A crowd of 35,000 people watched about 135 ponies cross. About 50 of the horses will be auctioned off today. The rest will be returned to Assateague.

\$10 billion cut is projected for Medicare

New York Times

WASHINGTON — The House Ways and Means Committee Wednesday approved a package of restrictions and cutbacks in the Medicare program designed to reduce projected spending by \$10 billion over the next three years.

The committee also approved legislation to fine or send to prison doctors who deny emergency hospital treatment to low-income patients without insurance.

The committee took action to control the cost of the health insurance program for 30 million elderly and disabled people without waiting for House and Senate conferees to agree on an overall budget resolution for the fiscal year 1986, which begins Oct. 1.

The package includes many novel proposals, such as a requirement that private employers offer to continue coverage for the widowed, divorced or separated spouse of any person in a private group health insurance plan. This provision, according to its supporters, was designed mainly to help women whose husbands have died or left them.

The employer would have to offer continued coverage as a condition of keeping its tax deduction for contributions to employees' health insurance. But the spouse would have to pay both the employer and employee share of premium costs, and the coverage would be canceled if the spouse remarried.

Linzie report reaction muted

By Steven Bennis
Missourian staff writer

Reaction was muted Wednesday at the conclusion of the nearly three-week internal police investigation into the July 3 shooting of Kimberly Linzie.

Mary Ratliff, local chapter president of the NAACP, said Wednesday she was not satisfied with the report but has no comment now. She said she plans to call the national NAACP office to get its opinion.

As a result of the 26-page report assembled by five police captains, Police Chief Dye has placed Officer Pat Mills on 15-days' suspension and confined her to six months of station duty. Dye said Tuesday that other officers involved in the incident — Joy Branch, Dean France and Jim Ford — will receive no disciplinary

action and will return to duty at an unspecified time.

Ina Boon, regional director of the NAACP, said Wednesday from her St. Louis office that attorneys for the group are reviewing the case.

Gail Hughes, chief supervisor for the Missouri Probation and Parole agency, said Wednesday he was reviewing the actions of Linzie's parole officer Mike Bequette. For about 45 minutes before Linzie led police on a fatal chase, Bequette tried to talk Linzie out of her friend Tammy Mayfield's car. Mayfield later reported the car stolen.

Linzie was on probation for drunk driving and leaving the scene of an accident in October 1984. Boone County Coroner Jay Dix reported that an autopsy showed that Linzie was legally drunk, a violation of her parole, when France shot her.

Hughes said his agency had been waiting for the police report so it can contribute to the routine inquiry.

"Any parole violator or any case that is unusual is looked at just as a routine matter," he said. "If our review throws light on this tragic situation, we will share it."

Boone County Prosecutor Joe Moseley said he found the report released Tuesday consistent with the evidence originally forwarded to his office by the Police Department. He said police and witness statements agreed.

"The information is overwhelming in support of the captains' review," Moseley said. Several civilian witnesses passing by on foot or in automobiles affirmed police statements that Mills was in danger between her patrol car and the car Linzie used to crush her.

Social Security COLA freeze planned

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate negotiators plan to propose a new budget that would freeze Social Security cost-of-living raises for a year but grant a double raise the next year to make up for it, Sen. Rudy Boschwitz said Wednesday.

Boschwitz, a member of the budget negotiating committee, said the plan would cut \$340 billion from the deficit over the next three years — far more than either the House or Senate plan did originally. A Boschwitz aide said freezing Social Security cost-of-living raises would save \$11 billion over three years, despite

the second year catch-up provision.

Boschwitz, R-Minn., told PBS "Nightly Business Report" the new budget also includes a one-year delay in tax indexing with a similar catch-up provision in the second year. Tax indexing lowers the tax burden to compensate for inflation. The new budget plan also calls for imposition of an oil import fee, the senator said.

A Senate Budget Committee spokesman said the plan is merely "one of two or three proposals which are under consideration." But another source, who asked for ano-

nymity, said the plan Boschwitz outlined is the one the majority of the Senate conferees want to present.

Budget talks collapsed last week after Senate negotiators rejected the latest House offer, which cut a bit more from domestic spending but not enough to satisfy the Senate.

The Senate's budget, which called for a freeze in Social Security cost-of-living raises but no compensating catch-up plan, would have sliced \$295 billion from the federal deficit in the next three years. The House's document preserved the raises intact and cut about \$272 billion.

Council handed expense report

Audit committee reviews \$2,000 in travel vouchers

By Lamar Graham
Missourian staff writer

The city Audit Committee quietly passed on to the Columbia City Council Wednesday a review showing more than \$2,000 in questionable travel expenses by city officials. Committee members said they did not feel comfortable scrutinizing vouchers that date back as far as 1979.

The committee, which includes three council members, questioned none of the travel expenses of 61 officials reviewed in the council-ordered audit. The report revealed that two former councilmen received more than \$1,600 in dubious reimbursements from city coffers.

The committee also entertained the idea of hiring a full-time employee to keep tabs on city-financed travel.

"I don't feel comfortable with asking any of these people to repay the money they spent," Sixth Ward Councilwoman Sharon Lynch, a committee member, said.

Second Ward Councilwoman Mary Anne McColium agreed. She said she could not question the vouchers of former councilmen Dick Walls and Matt McCormick, who failed to produce receipts for more than \$1,600 worth of travel, because the Finance Department did not question the expenses of Assistant City Manager Bob Black.

Black, who promotes the city on various junkets, spent more than \$26,000 of city money on his travels from October 1979 to August 1984. Although the audit questions only \$83 of his expenditures, the Finance Department did not know the purpose of many of his trips. Committee Chairman Jim Goodrich said many of Black's trips are kept quiet because they revolve around tenuous business deals.

Although Lynch also refused to scrutinize Black's travels, she suggested city officials should be more accountable for the money they

spend. "I don't think anybody should be involved in that high-class of an operation in Columbia, Mo.," Lynch said. "We're not dealing with the FBI or the CIA."

Lynch was bothered in particular by Black's recent promotional tour of Japan. "I have never heard anything from the result of a \$5,000 trip, and that bothers me."

Mayor Rodney Smith, who asked the committee to send the audit to the council, suggested the Finance Department draw up specific guidelines for officials to follow when on city-financed trips.

Finance Director Harold Boldt and Acting City Manager Ray Beck agreed the plan was a good idea.

Beck also said the city should consider hiring someone to keep track of city travel expenses. "It all gets back to a fiscal question of whether you audit it or check it," he said. "I really believe the place to handle this is up front."

The audit, ordered by the council in April, was a response to a travel-expense scandal that revealed former Mayor John Westlund had received more than \$12,000 in dubious reimbursements from the city treasury. Westlund resigned in April in the wake of the controversy.

Former City Manager Dick Gray, who ordered the audit, stepped down a month later with almost \$1,500 in questionable travel expenses. Westlund returned about \$2,000. Gray reimbursed the city for \$59.

Six other former and current city officials received questionable reimbursements, according to the audit, which covers mid-1979 to mid-1984. Walls and McCormick top the list with more than \$820 each.

Finance Department officers sifted through about 15,300 documents putting the audit together. The officials analyzed in the review spent almost \$200,000 of city money on travel during the five-year period. The \$2,091 questioned constitutes 0.07 percent of the total travel figure.

'Killer bees' in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — A swarm of "killer bees" that originated in Africa has been found in a hole near a Central Valley oil field, the first such discovery in the United States, a team of state and federal experts reported Wednesday.

The bees have been rumored to be making their way for decades from South America toward the

United States. They are called "killer bees" because they are more prone to attack and sting than the average bee.

The greatest risk to humans is that "even a slight disturbance can set off a chain reaction affecting an entire swarm," state Department of Food and Agriculture spokeswoman Jan Wessell said.

Cyclist's family: Boy went out of way to be safe

By Kathryn Cehow
Missourian staff writer

Christopher Todd Odneal, the 16-year-old Columbia youth who was struck and killed while riding his bicycle home from work early Tuesday morning, was careful about safety, said Cheryl Odneal, the boy's stepmother.

The route he was taking home when he was killed was at least two miles out of his way, she said, but he went that way because he thought it was safer.

Also, she said, "He kept his bike in very good condition because it was his only means of transportation —

and we insisted that he keep it as safe as possible."

Contrary to some reports, his bicycle was equipped with a headlight, according to his sister, Michelle. She said her fiance, Todd Martin, had helped him mount the light earlier in the week.

"There were reflectors on the back seat and the pedals, too," his stepmother said.

The truck that struck Odneal was traveling eastbound on Stadium Boulevard, police say. Although a reconstruction of the accident is not complete, it appears Odneal was hit from behind and that the impact

point was at the truck's center.

Oodneal did not die on impact but died from being dragged, said Steve Bolesla, assistant medical examiner.

Oodneal's body was found on the south shoulder of New Haven Road, just east of the Nifong-Highway 63 interchange. He was dragged about three miles before the truck apparently stopped, the driver got out to look under it, then got back in and backed up, which dislodged the body, said Sgt. Jack Phillips of the

Columbia Police Department.

James Depler, the man police charge with driving the truck that struck Todd, and John Marshall, a passenger in the truck, told police they saw a bicycle and heard a thump but that neither saw a bicycle veer in front of them.

Depler, 25, of 13 Woodstock Trailer Court has been charged with second-degree murder and leaving the scene of an accident.

After the preliminary hearing, which should take place in three to four weeks, he also might be charged with driving while his license was revoked, said Phillips.

Marshall, 19, also of 13 Woodstock Trailer Court, who was a passenger in Depler's truck at the time of the accident, has not been charged, Phillips said.

"We are not going to commit whether he will be charged," he added, because police still are checking into Marshall's involvement in the accident.

Depler has a lengthy record of traffic violations, Phillips said, including careless and imprudent driving, speeding and driving while intoxicated.

In September 1984, Depler was convicted twice for DWIs in Missou-

ri, one in Camden County and the other in Livingston County, Phillips said. Depler's license was under revocation when the accident occurred.

Depler and Marshall told police they had been drinking the evening Todd was killed but that they were not drunk. A breath test was not administered to determine if the two were intoxicated, Phillips said.

Thus may have been because the time between the phone call reporting the accident and the arrest of Depler and Marshall was more than the time allowed by law to administer a test, Phillips said.